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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,354	07/10/2001	Terrence C. Pearson	GIL 1009 PUS	8894

7590

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EXAMINER

MCDOWELL, SUZANNE E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1732

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Applicati n No.

09/902,354

Applicant(s)

PEARSON, TERRENCE C.

Examiner

Suzanne E. McDowell

Art Unit

1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 17, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gotterbauer (US Patent 5,759,479). Gotterbauer discloses the claimed limitations at column 4, lines 31-48, wherein a gas assist injection molding machine allows a portion of the molten core displaced by the gas to be pushed back into the plastifying unit.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotterbauer (US Patent 5,759,479). Gotterbauer does not teach that there is a shutoff valve positioned between the mold cavity and the barrel of the injector, i.e., in the hot channel distributor (12). It is generally well known in the art to position valves in hot channels, in order to control the expulsion of melt and/or gas in the molding cavity. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a generally well known valve to modify the method taught by Gotterbauer in order to more quickly and easily form the molded part, without the necessity of measuring the injected resin.

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5. Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotterbauer (US Patent 5,759,479) in view of Hildesson et al. (US Patent 6,372,177). Gotterbauer discloses the claimed limitations at column 4, lines 31-48, wherein a gas assist injection molding machine allows a portion of the molten core displaced by the gas to be pushed back into the plastifying unit. Regarding claim 21, Gotterbauer does not teach that gas is injected into a thicker section of the article. Regarding claims 22-24, Gotterbauer does not teach that plastic material is expelled into a spill cavity or cavities. Hildesson et al. teaches a method of gas assist injection molding which forms an article with a thicker section (See Figure 1) wherein the gas is injected, during which material is expelled into spill cavities (column 3, lines 11-32) connected to the mold cavity via a valve. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the method taught by Hildesson et al. to modify the method taught by Gotterbauer in order to more quickly and easily form the molded part, without the necessity of measuring the injected resin.

### ***Double Patenting***

6. Claims 1-16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 4, 13, 18-20, 24, and 25 of copending Application No. 09/918,234. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims encompass the limitations of claims 4, 13, 18-20, 24, and 25 of copending Application No. 09/918,234.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

### ***Conclusion***

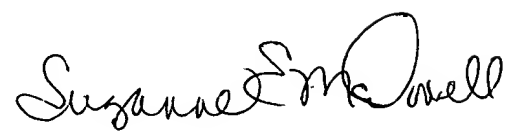
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne E. McDowell whose telephone number is (703) 305-4018. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (703) 308-3853. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.

SEM  
June 30, 2003



SUZANNE E. MCDOWELL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER